

## Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19 NIC-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 EUR-25 AF-10 IO-14 PRS-01 DRC-01 /149 W

----- 035116

R 010442Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECSTATE WASHDC 2000

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5249

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MARR, TH, XO

SUBJ: PRC POLICY TOWARD THE U.S.-SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP IN THE  
INDIAN OCEAN

REF: BANGKOK 5132 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THE LAST FEW DAYS, INCLUDING A NEWS  
CONFERENCE BY THE MFA SPOKESMAN (REFTEL), HIGHLIGHT RTG  
SENSITIVITY TOWARD AND AWARENESS OF IMPLICATIONS OF THE  
INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL BUILDUP AND OUR EXPANSION OF THE DIEGO  
GARCIA NAVAL BASE. THE MFA SPOKESMAN SPECIFICALLY SAID:  
"THAILAND ADHERES TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT AMERICAN MILITARY  
FORCES ARE STATIONED IN THAILAND FOR THE SECURITY OF THIS  
REGION--THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED WITH THE UNQUIET IN  
INDOCHINA ONLY." THIS ATTITUDE WILL PROBABLY BECOME MORE  
ACUTE, AND COULD AFFECT OUR USE OF OTHER UTAPAO-BASED AIR-  
CRAFT FOR INDIAN OCEAN SURVEILLANCE MISSIONS. WE WILL  
ATTEMPT TO WORK WITH THE MFA TO PREVENT THIS ATTITUDE  
FROM BECOMING MORE FIXED AND AFFECTING SUCH OPERATIONS.

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2. WHILE WE ARE AWARE THAT THE PRC HAS DENOUNCED BOTH SIDES IN THE BUILDUP AS AN EXAMPLE OF GREAT POWER CONTENTION FOR HEGEMONY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION OR INDICATION WHICH WOULD POINT TO PRC UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIC US NEED TO COUNTERBALANCE IN SOME WAY THE SOVIET BUILDUP, OR ELSE FACE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PRESERVE OF SOVIET NAVAL POWER. THE RTG HAS RECENTLY GIVEN GREATER WEIGHT TO AND FOCUSED INCREASINGLY ON WHAT ATTITUDE THE PRC DISPLAYS TOWARD INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES OF THIS NATURE.

3. FBIS BANGKOK D300310 MARCH 74 CARRIES A COMMENTARY FROM THE MARCH 30 "NATION" APPLAUDING CHINA'S CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET BUILDUP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, REFERRING APPARENTLY TO AN NCNA ITEM ABOUT MARCH 28.

4. FOR HONG KONG: PLEASE SEND THE TEXT OF THE NCNA ITEM ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE HONG KONG OR PEKING COMBING THEIR FILES TO LOCATE ANY OTHER PRC STATEMENTS IN THIS REGARD, OR EVEN AN IMPLIED AWARENESS OF DIFFICULTIES THAT THE US FACES? THEY WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL WHEN WE NEXT DEAL WITH THE THAI ON THE ROLE OF THAILAND-BASED US FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN CONTEXT.  
KINTNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, MARR, TH, XO, US, UR  
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